

JAPANESE FAIRY TALE SERIES No. 6
THE MOUSE'S WEDDING





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THE MOUSE'S WEDDING.

A LONG time ago there was a white mouse called Kanemochi, servant of Daikoku, the God of Wealth. His wife's name was Onaga. Both Kanemochi and

his wife were very discreet. Never in the day time nor even at night did they venture into the parlor or kitchen, and so they lived in tranquility free from danger of meeting the cat. Their only son Fukutaro also was of a gentle disposition. When he was old enough to take a wife, his parents concluded to get him one, transfer their property to him, and seek retirement. Fortunately, one of their relatives named Chudayu had

a lovely daughter called Hatsuka.

Accordingly a go-between
was employed to enter into
negotiations
with Chudayu
respecting







the marriage. When the young folks were allowed to see each other, neither party objected, and so presents were exchanged.

The bridegroom sent the bride
the usual articles: an *obi* or belt,
silk cotton, dried bonito, dried





cuttle fish, white flax, seaweed,
and *sake* or rice wine. The
bride sent the bridegroom in like
manner: a linen *kami-shimo*, dried
bonito, dried cuttle-fish, white

flax, sea-weed, fish, and *sake*;
thus confirming the marriage
promise.

A lucky day was then chosen,
and every thing prepared for
the bride's removal to her new
home, her clothes were cut out
and made, and needed articles
purchased. So Chudayu was
kept busy preparing for the
wedding.

The parents made their daugh-
ter Hatsuka blacken her teeth





as a sign that she would
not marry a second husband;
they also carefully taught her
that she must obey her husband,
be dutiful to her father-in-law,

and love her mother-in-law.

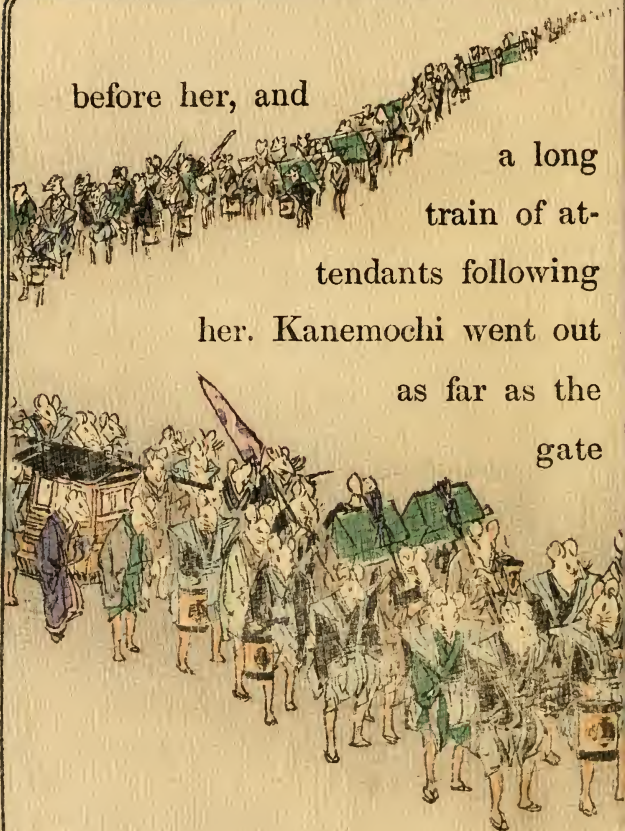
Kanemochi on his part cleaned up his house inside and out, made preparation for the marriage ceremony and feast, assembled his relatives and friends, and sent out many of his servants to meet the bride on her way, and to give notice of her approach, that all might be prepared for her reception.

Soon the bride came in her palanquin with her boxes carried

before her, and

a long
train of at-
tendants following

her. Kanemochi went out
as far as the
gate

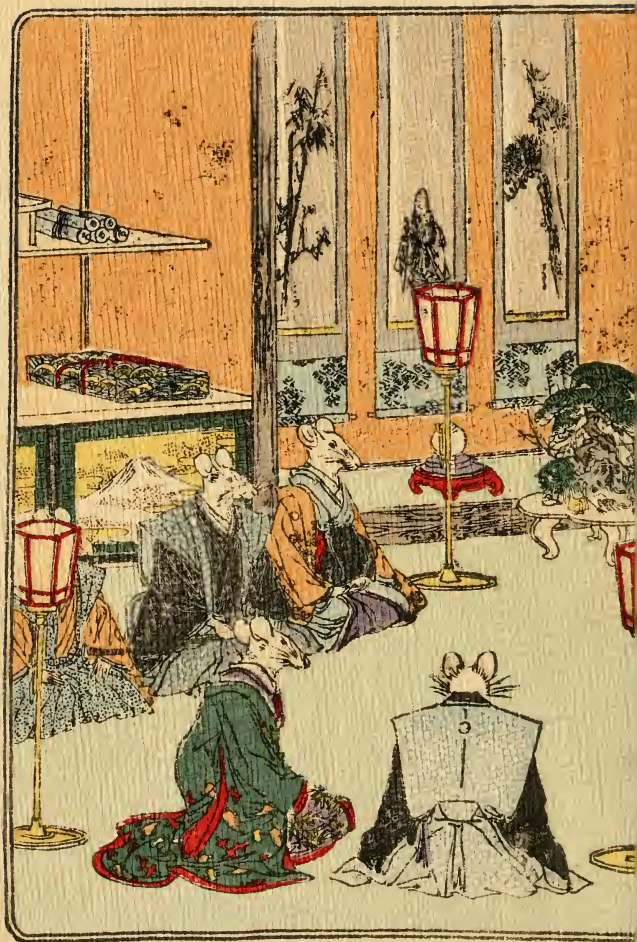


to meet her, and ushered her into the parlor.

At a signal from the go-between the bride and bridegroom, to confirm the marriage bond, exchanged between themselves three cups of *sake*, drinking three times from each cup in turns.

When this ceremony, the "three











times three" was ended, the guests exchanged cups with the bride in token of good will, and thus the union was consum-mated.

Shortly afterwards the bride, her husband, and his parents visited her home. In the evening the bride returned home with her husband and his parents with whom she lived in harmony, contented, prosperous and happy, and much to be congratulated.

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